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# ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

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N O V E M B E R, 1 8 5 3 .

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## PEACE PETITIONS TO THE PRESIDENT.

To Christian ministers of all denominations, we beg leave to address a few words of earnest entreaty for their prompt and zealous co-operation in the efforts we are now making to secure in our treaties with other nations, but more especially with England, a provision for the settlement of all future disputes by arbitration instead of the sword. We presume there is little need of explanation, inasmuch as there has probably been sent to most of you a printed circular, stating the object somewhat in detail, furnishing several forms of petition for signatures, and requesting you, when as many as practicable have been obtained in your place, to forward them to a person, named in your State, for the purpose of being embodied in a single State Memorial to be presented to the President of the United States.

Our plan is very simple, and easy of execution. The friends of peace in England and America have been laboring nearly forty years to enlighten and impress the public mind on this great subject, in the hope of ultimately inducing their respective rulers to adopt some rational, peaceful, Christian method of adjusting all their future difficulties without a resort to arms. The specific method we urge for this purpose, is that of providing by treaty for the adjustment of such difficulties, if the parties cannot agree between themselves, by reference to umpires mutually chosen. This must of course be done, if done at all, by our rulers, whom we can expect to move in the matter only in response to a satisfactory expression of the people's wishes, such as we are now endeavoring to procure from all parts of the land, in the form of a large State Memorial to the President from every State in the Union. Such memorials, if promptly sent alike from the East and the West, from the North and the South, could hardly fail, we think, to secure, in a very important treaty now pending between us and England, the provision we seek as an effectual guaranty against future wars between these two nations.

But how shall we procure these memorials? We have not the means of canvassing the whole country by special agents of our own; nor, if we had, could we do it in the short time within which it must be done. *We must have spontaneous co-workers all over the land.* Is there enough of Christian interest on this subject to secure such co-workers? If not, our effort must fail for the present; and this is just the issue we now present to you as ambassadors of the Prince of Peace. In his name, and on behalf

of his cause, we ask, will you help us in this work? To ministers of the gospel in some twenty States we have sent circulars with forms of petition for signatures, and engaged in each of these States a friend of the cause to act as a temporary agent in receiving the signatures, embodying them in one State Memorial, and then forwarding it to the President. We have necessarily relied chiefly on the Christian ministers whom we have thus invited to this "work of faith and labor or love;" and, with little effort, they can, if they will, make sure of its being done in a single month from one end of the land to the other.

Let us, then, ask our friends in the ministry,—and *all* true ministers of Christ must be the friends of this cause,—have you already complied with the request in our circular to you? If not, let us hope you will do so *at once*. It need not cost you much labor. Just bring the subject on some fitting occasion before your people, then get a few suitable persons to procure signatures, and, when obtained in sufficient numbers, forward them to the agent appointed in your State to receive them. If you have not at hand our circular, with forms of petition, we give one here, which can be copied in a few minutes:—

*To the President of the United States:*

We, the undersigned, legal voters of (here naming the State) respectfully request you to propose to all nations with whom we have intercourse, a provision in our treaties with them for referring to the decision of umpires all misunderstandings that cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by amicable negotiation.

We subjoin the names of our friends who have consented to act, in their respective States, as agents in receiving signatures for State Memorials, viz., Rev. DAVID THURSTON, D. D., Brown's Corner, Me.; Rev. SAMUEL LEE, New Ipswich, N. H.; THOMAS H. PALMER, Esq., Pittsford, Vt.; JOHN H. HAMLIN, Esq., Providence, R. I.; for Mass., the Am. Peace Soc., Boston; Rev. W. H. MOORE, Torrington, Ct.; Rev. ROBERT AIKMAN, Elizabethtown, N. J.; Dr. L. P. BUSH, Wilmington, Del.; Rev. C. DUFFEE, Brooklyn, O.; Rev. Prof. WM. TWining, Crawfordsville, Ind.; Rev. J. R. HENDRICK, Frankfort, Ky.; Rev. WM. HOMES, St. Louis, Mo.; Rev. W. T. HAMILTON, D. D., Mobile, Ala.; Rev. S. S. HOWE, (misprinted in circular) Iowa City, Iowa; Rev. A. H. CONANT, Geneva, Ill.; Rev. E. D. SEWARD, Lake Mills, Wis.; Rev. S. D. PITKIN, Battle Creek, Mich. Other arrangements are in progress, but not ready for announcement. In a series of Southern and South-Western States we have appointed travelling agents to undertake this along with other services for the cause; but they are expected to act in but few, if any, of the above mentioned States where local agents have consented to receive the returns to our circular for petitions.

Now, may we not safely rely on the ministers and followers of the Prince of Peace for the slight service we ask at their hands? There never has been so hopeful an opportunity for so decisive an achievement in behalf of this great Christian cause; but the result must depend, under God, almost entirely on their readiness to make a right use of this golden opportunity for the world's permanent peace. Remember, that what is done, must be done without delay.